of plant physyiclogy, with a specific emphasis on Darjeeling tea. The experiments conducted by this Centre in the field of plant protection, plant physiology, breeding, soil and metereology, bio-chemicstry etc. have helped in maintaining the distinctive features of Darjeeling tea and its flavour which is unique in the world. DTRC also has played a meaningful role in extension and advisory services to the growers in implementing its findings and in helping them adopt better agricultural practices for higher productivity.

The activities of DTRC are periodically reviewed by the Advisory Committee and the Tea Research Liason Committee of the Tea Board in order to bridge any possible gap between research and field requirements.

Targets of Agricultural and farm Exports

3091. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give the highest priority to agricultural and farm exports to sustain the export drive;

(b) if so, whether any target has also been fixed or agrobased items for exports during the remaining period of 8th Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to achieve the target fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Government is keen to promote export of agricultural commodities. An export target of Rs. 6519 crores at 1991-92 prices has been fixed for achievement by the end of the Eighth Plan period (1996-97) in respect of agricultural commodities.

(d) Steps taken to enhance exports in this sector, inter-alia, include simplification of inspection procedures, removal of Minimum Export Price and Quantity restrictions on selected items, provision of concessional credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of EOUs/EPZs to agriculture sector and permitting 50 per cent sale in the domestic tariff area assistance to exporters for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets and paricipation in international fairs/exhibitions.

Overhaul of vabal Scheme

3092. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enforcement officials have demanded a complete overhaul of value based advance licence facility to prevent large scale misuse of the system;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the number of cases of misuse of the scheme that have come to the notice of Government during 1994 and uptil now giving the details thereof and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) 82 cases of alleged/suspected mis-use of Value Based Advance Licensing Scheme have come to notice. Of these, 44 cases have been referred to various Enforcement agencies for investigation. Further action in respect of the remaining cases is being taken under the provisions of the Foreign Trade (Development& Regulation) Act, 1992. Simultaneously, the Scheme itself is constantly monitored with a view to